

# FROM MOBILITY THEORY TO TEST OF AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL VEHICLE

Donald B. Bickler

Jet Propulsion Laboratory/California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California

## ABSTRACT

The Jet Propulsion laboratory has developed a family of vehicles for exploring the surface of other planets. This development was a combination of theory and innovation. Suspension system linkages were conceived and then analyzed as quasi-static equilibrium of force equations. Experimental vehicles were built and tested to verify the performance. As different configurations evolved, several common features were retained. These common features constituted the "family of vehicles."